Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for transporting items for purchase at a checkout location comprising:

a conveyor having an upstream end for loading ~~one or more~~ at least one item[[s]] for purchase and a downstream end for processing the at least one item for purchase;

~~a scanning area positioned proximate a downstream end of the conveyor for scanning one or more items for purchase received from the downstream end of the conveyor, wherein the one or more items having been previously loaded onto the upstream end of the conveyor and transported to the downstream end~~ a processing area positioned proximate the downstream end of the conveyor, the processing area comprising a self-scanning area and a bagging area;

~~a user proximity sensor positioned at the scanning area for sensing a user at the scanning area;~~

a start sensor positioned proximate the upstream end of the conveyor, wherein the conveyor transports ~~one or more~~ the at least one item[[s]] downstream toward[[s]] the self-scanning processing area ~~upon the~~ in response to the start sensor sensing ~~one or more~~ the at least one item~~s placed~~ adjacent ~~thereto on the conveyor, prior to the proximity sensor sensing a user~~ to the start sensor, and wherein the conveyor is stopped when the at least one item is no longer adjacent to the start sensor; [[~~and~~]]

a user proximity sensor positioned at the self-scanning area, wherein the user proximity sensor in response to sensing a user causes the conveyor to resume transporting the at least one item towards the downstream end of the conveyor; and

a stop sensor positioned proximate the downstream end of the conveyor near the self-scanning area, wherein the conveyor is stopped upon ~~one or more items~~ the at least one item being sensed by the stop sensor.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~further~~ wherein the start sensor comprises a plurality of start sensors.

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of start sensors are positioned one after the other in a transporting direction at the [[~~first~~]] upstream end of the conveyor.

6. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of start sensors are spaced apart from one another a predetermined distance.

7. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein a last start sensor of the plurality of start sensors is positioned such that the conveyor is stopped with a last item [[~~is~~]] positioned within an arm's reaching distance of [[a]] the processing area ~~after passing the last sensor~~.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A method for transporting items along a conveyor in a self-checkout system comprising:

providing a self-checkout system comprising a conveyor having an upstream end for loading ~~one or more~~ at least one item[[s]] for purchase and a downstream end for processing the at least one item, a processing area comprising: a self-scanning area and a bagging area positioned proximate a downstream end of the conveyor ~~for scanning one or more items for purchase received from the downstream end of the conveyor, wherein the one or more items having been previously loaded onto the upstream end of the conveyor and transported to the downstream end, a user proximity sensor provided at the scanning area for sensing a user at the scanning area, a~~, at least one start sensor positioned proximate the upstream end of the conveyor ~~for starting the conveyor~~, a user proximity sensor positioned at the self-scanning area, and a stop sensor positioned proximate ~~the downstream end of the conveyor near~~ to the self-scanning area;

~~starting the conveyor in a direction toward the downstream end upon a first item for purchase being placed in proximity to the start sensor on the conveyor prior to a user being sensed by the user proximity sensor~~ commencing downstream movement of the conveyor in response to the at least one start sensor sensing a first item on the conveyor, wherein downstream movement of the conveyor continues until the at least one start sensor does not sense the at least one item;

~~transporting the first item beyond the start sensor;~~

~~stopping the conveyor prior to the first item reaching the downstream end of the conveyor if the user proximity sensor senses that a user is absent at the scanning area;~~

~~transporting the first item toward the downstream end of the conveyor if the user proximity sensor indicates a user is present at the scanning area~~ resuming the downstream movement of the conveyor in response to a user being sensed by the user proximity sensor;

~~transporting the first item toward the downstream end of the conveyor upon a second item being placed in proximity to the start sensor;~~ and

stopping the conveyor in response to the at least one item being sensed by the stop ~~upon the first item being sensed by the stopping~~ sensor.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein upon the user being ~~present~~ sensed by the user proximity sensor ~~near the scanning area~~, and upon the [[~~first~~]] at least one item being removed from the conveyor ~~near the scanning area~~, the conveyor ~~is operated~~ resumes downstream movement for a predetermined time interval or until a ~~second~~ subsequent item is sensed by the stop[[~~ping~~]] sensor.

12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein upon a user being absent from the self-scanning area, the conveyor stops when the [[~~first~~]] at least one item is transported to a position beyond the at least one start sensor.

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein upon a user being absent from the self-scanning area, and wherein a subsequent item is adjacent to the at least one start sensor, the conveyor moves [[~~in~~]] toward the downstream end ~~upon one or more additional items being placed in proximity to the start sensor~~.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 12, where upon ~~the one or more additional~~ a subsequent item reaching the stop sensor, the conveyor ~~is stopped~~ stops.

15. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein upon the conveyor moving in the transporting direction, ~~the method further comprises stopping~~ the conveyor is stopped via a manual switch.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A self-checkout system comprising:

a conveyor having an upstream end for loading ~~one or more items~~ at least one item for purchase and a downstream end for processing the at least one item for purchase;

~~a scanning area positioned proximate a downstream end of the conveyor for scanning one or more items for purchase received from the downstream end of the conveyor, wherein the one or more items having been previously loaded onto the upstream end of the conveyor and transported to the downstream end~~ a processing area positioned proximate the downstream end of the conveyor, the processing area comprising a self-scanning area and a bagging area;

~~a user proximity sensor positioned at the scanning area for sensing a user at the scanning area;~~

a start sensor positioned proximate the upstream end of the conveyor, wherein the conveyor transports ~~one or more~~ the at least one item[[s]] downstream towards the self-scanning processing area ~~upon the~~ in response to the start sensor sensing ~~one or more~~ the at least one item[[s]] ~~placed~~ adjacent ~~thereto on the conveyor, prior to the proximity sensor sensing a user~~ to the start sensor, and wherein the conveyor is stopped when the at least one item is no longer adjacent to the start sensor; [[~~and~~]]

a user proximity sensor positioned at the self-scanning area, wherein the user proximity sensor in response to sensing a user causes the conveyor to resume transporting the at least one item towards the downstream end of the conveyor; and

a stop sensor positioned proximate the downstream end of the conveyor near the self-scanning area, wherein the conveyor is stopped upon ~~one or more items~~ the at least one item being sensed by the stop sensor.

18. (Original) The self-checkout system according to claim 17, wherein the conveyor starts upon an item being placed in proximity to the start sensor.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The self-checkout system according to claim 17, wherein the start sensor comprises a plurality of start sensors.

21. (Currently amended) The self-checkout system according to claim 20, wherein the plurality of start sensors are positioned one after the other in a transporting direction at the first end of the conveyor.

22. (Currently amended) The self-checkout system according to claim 20, wherein the plurality of start sensors are spaced apart from one another a predetermined distance.

23. (Currently amended) The self-checkout system according to claim 22, wherein a last start sensor of the plurality of start sensors is positioned such that a last item is positioned within a reaching distance of the processing area after passing the last start sensor.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) A computer readable media having computer instructions provided thereon for allowing a computer system to perform a method for transporting items along a conveyor for a checkout system[[,]] ~~the method~~ comprising:

providing a self-checkout system comprising a conveyor having an upstream end for loading ~~one or more~~ at least one item[[s]] for purchase and a downstream end for processing the at least one item, a processing area consisting of a self-scanning area and a bagging area positioned proximate a downstream end of the conveyor ~~for scanning one or more items for purchase received from the downstream end of the conveyor, wherein the one or more items having been previously loaded onto the upstream end of the conveyor and transported to the downstream end, a user proximity sensor provided at the scanning area for sensing a user at the scanning area,~~ a, at least one start sensor positioned proximate the upstream end of the conveyor ~~for starting the conveyor~~, a user proximity sensor positioned at the self-scanning area, and a stop sensor positioned proximate ~~the downstream end of the conveyor near~~ to the self-scanning area;

~~starting the conveyor in a direction toward the downstream end upon a first item for purchase being placed in proximity to the start sensor on the conveyor prior to a user being sensed by the user proximity sensor~~

the instructions comprising:

commencing the downstream movement of the conveyor in response to the at least one start sensor sensing a first item on the conveyor; wherein downstream movement of the conveyor continues until the at least one start sensor does not sense the at least one item;

~~transporting the first item beyond the start sensor;~~

~~stopping the conveyor prior to the first item reaching the downstream end of the conveyor if the user proximity sensor senses that a user is absent at the scanning area;~~

~~transporting the first item toward the downstream end of the conveyor if the user proximity sensor indicates a user is present at the scanning area~~ resuming the downstream movement of the conveyor in response to a user being sensed by the user proximity sensor;

~~transporting the first item toward the downstream end of the conveyor upon a second item being placed in proximity to the start sensor;~~ and

stopping the conveyor in response to the at least one item being sensed by the stop sensor ~~upon the first item being sensed by the stopping sensor~~.

26. (Canceled)